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Testimony Regarding:

H.B. No. 6650 – AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC ACCESS TO CERTAIN COASTAL RESOURCES

Good Morning,

I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to Raised Bill 6650 – AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC ACCESS TO CERTAIN COASTAL RESOURCES.

There are three substantial reasons I am writing in opposition of this proposed bill as written. Approval of this bill would have significant impact upon local municipal budgets. I strongly believe the regulatory powers of municipal owned property should remain in local control. This ends up being another unfunded mandate on the local municipalities.

The budgetary impact of this bill would be significant and the timing of its passage would be detrimental to local budget planning. Majority of the local municipalities are in the middle of planning their fiscal year 2024 budgets. Fairfield is currently projecting revenue from parking fees and season parking passes. This revenue is typically in the range of \$1.2 million dollars annually. The loss of that revenue would directly impact our residents by raising their taxes. The residents of Fairfield already contribute a significant portion of their taxes to the upkeep and maintenance of our facilities.

I strongly believe the regulatory powers of municipal owned property should remain in local control. The inability to limit capacity of parking in certain public beaches and recreation areas place additional strain on these neighborhoods. I would argue the local municipalities know their facilities and capacity limits better than the politicians in Hartford. Most of our coastal facilities are in congested neighborhoods that cannot handle additional traffic. By passing this bill you are creating a potential public safety issue.

Another UNFUNDED mandate passed onto the Connecticut residents. As municipalities have seen over the years, Hartford creates an issue where there is not one and then passes the buck onto the residents of the local municipalities. The maintenance of our facilities do not come without a cost. These costs are currently paid for by the Fairfield taxpayers and partially offset by a parking fee charged to our visitors. To pass a bill that will increase these costs and not help fund them is fundamentally wrong.

I would ask you to oppose this bill as currently written. If you have any questions of concerns, as always, I'd love to connect with you.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anthony R. Calabrese, MS, CPRP

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